THE

ORDEAL.

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POLITICKS.

It is not the disorder, but the physician ; it is not a casual concurrence of calamitous circumstances ; it is the pernicious hand of government, which alone can make a whole people desperate. JUNIUS.

REVIEW *of Mr. Giles's first Speech in the Senate of the United States, on the Resolution of Mr. Hillhouse to repeal the Embargo Laws.*

Continued from page 22.

IN entering into an examination of the second branch of Mr. Giles's defence of the administration, for continuing the Embargo Laws, we confess ourselves disappointed and provoked, that the arguments of a man who bears the name of Statesman, should not be grounded upon any important series of facts, but depend for their support on theoretick and visionary calculations in national policy, which every test by which they can be tried, determines to be fallacious, and which sound reason and common sense must utterly disclaim. We are naturally surprised to observe a philosopher persist in maintaining an hypothesis in science, after a long course of patient and critical investigation has evinced it false and inconclusive. But when the subject of the experiment is changed to a great and populous nation, when the whole nervous system of the political body is laid bare to the cold and unflinching hand of an ignorant operator, when every touch of the lancet draws forth the groans and convulsions of the suffering victim ; what words can express our sensations when the surgeon declares, in spite of his ill-success, that he must probe yet deeper into the wound ? Must we not believe him capable, through enmity and disappointment, of plunging his instrument into the heart of the patient, and stifle in the grave both the throes of despair and the remembrance of the assassination. Mr. Giles admits that cries of distress resound from one end of the continent to the other ; he confesses the inefficacy of the experiment in determining the truth of the hypothesis ; but declares his intention of persevering in the errour, though the nation should rise in rebellion, and the constitutional building be shaken to its foundation. One principal topick in his vindication of the Embargo measure, has for its foundation the circumstance of its *failure*. How then can he favour its continuance, when its execution at home becomes every day more imprac-

ticable and unpopular, and its operations abroad become every day less injurious. Having admitted its *ill-success*, &c. of what consequence is it to enquire how success has been frustrated? Suppose our party dissensions, suppose the revolution in Spain to have been the causes, (which we by no means admit,) the argument is directly in the teeth of administration; for the difficulties resulting from the Spanish revolutions and our domestick discontents, are evidently increasing, and if they have been sufficient reasons for the present failure, are much stronger against the further continuance of the policy. It is always thus with tyrannical and oppressive measures; their advocate must confound himself in contradiction or conceal himself in subtlety, when the errour is open and palpable to the plainest principles of moral honesty and common sense.

The Embargo it was easy to foresee would be ineffectual in its *coercion* of the belligerent powers (even if it had not been manifestly intended to favour the French nation, and if the result had not determined its futility) which will be evident if we consider the state of our commercial negociations at the time of its adoption, the difficulties which conspired to impede them, and the little probable injury Great-Britain would sustain in consequence of its operation. The sentiments of the new British ministry relating to neutral commerce had been promulgated in various shapes; but particularly in the decisions of the admiralty courts, under Sir William Scott, and in the pamphlet of "War in Disguise," published before that ministry came into power. We know the sentiments of that work to be those of Mr. Canning, for they have since then been adopted in their utmost latitude. The President's rejection of the treaty obtained by Messrs. Munroe and Pinckney, and the news of the Chesapeak disaster, were received in England nearly upon the heels of each other; and the temper of the English government towards us was proved, by its complete acquiescence in that rejection, though the treaty was negotiated under circumstances more favourable to the interests of the United States, than ever before existed. But the principles insisted on by our government, were so far strained, that Lords Holland and Aukland, at the present moment in the opposition, declared in relation to our proposition, with respect *to seamen in merchant ships*, that the British "government could not adopt it without taking on itself a responsibility, *which no ministry would be willing to meet, however pressing the emergency might be;** and this language was used by the very ministry who had before welcomed our commissioners, in these terms, "an attention which it will always be the pride of the foreign office to shew to the ministers of the United States, *our half countrymen.*"† It was clear,

* Page 110, 111 of documents published by order of our government, March 22, 1808. † Page 77, ibid.

therefore, that our administration could never calculate upon further concessions in our favour, than the former British ministry had granted; and that the favourite principle of Mr. Madison, which is *the complete protection of every person sailing under the American flag in merchant vessels*, could never be acceded to by the new administration.

Our claims in respect to the prosecution of commerce, were equally repugnant to the present ministry. The idea of its granting the principle either of "*free ships, free goods*," or a further relaxation of the rule of war of 1756, must have been imaginary and delusive to all but very theoretic and speculative men. And though the West-India merchants and planters made the concessions granted to us in the rejected treaty, the occasion of great clamour against Mr. Fox and his friends, and indeed preferred them as charges for the removal of that ministry from power; yet Mr. Madison now contends for them, with as much confidence and pertinacity, as if the views of the United States alone, were to be consulted, and as if the English nation had no other right or interest, but to clear away the obstacles which intercept them. The opposition made to our commercial claims, was sufficiently notorious in England and in this country, insomuch that the English merchants concerned in West-Indian affairs, had become formidable enough to render the ministry exceeding jealous of all plans proposed by our minister at the Court of St. James, which could be viewed in any light repugnant to the feelings of so powerful a party.

Under such a state of publick sentiment in Great-Britain, the kind of probability existing, that the Embargo could produce a concession of the principles which it was its apparent intention to inforce, could be found only in such brains as those of Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison. For under any emergence, this sentiment would still continue in its fullest force; and the calculation was, that the distresses which we vainly flattered ourselves would be produced, were not likely to arrive.

Though the West-Indian colonies would probably be driven to a great strait, by a scarcity of flour and provisions; yet the idea of starving them, was always considered futile and ridiculous. Every principle of commerce was in direct repugnance to the notion; not only because the colonists would probably turn their attention to the culture of grain, and additional quantities of yams, and other vegetables; but because it was foreseen that there would be frequent evasions of the Embargo laws in this country. That the prices of every description of provisions, with which we were in the habit of supplying the West-Indies, would be greatly enhanced, was certainly evident; but at the same time it was equally apparent, that the English colonists could well afford to pay much more than usual for such supplies, because the evident effect of the measure in *Europe*, was to increase very considerably the demand for their own West-India productions. This will be rendered apparent, if the state of the colonies be considered at

the period when the Embargo was establiſhed; in which we shall discover the causes of the opposition to American commerce, just now referred to, as presenting formidable obstacles to the settlement of any definitive principles, on which our colonial trade might be prosecuted.

From a variety of causes, in the front of which, the interfering commerce of this country was arrayed as the principal, the British West-Indian concerns, were, in the years 1806 and 1807, involved in extraordinary calamity. The excessive cultivation of sugar all over the islands, produced a glut in the great market of the world; and the Americans supplied nearly the whole of continental Europe, with that article. The English on the other hand, were obliged to confine themselves to their home markets. It was apparent that we should supply the continental market with no more sugar than we could realize a profit upon, which of consequence threw back the whole surplus sugar of the world, upon the Engliſh merchants and planters. The result of all this was, that there arose a gradual accumulation of upwards of 100,000 hogsheads of sugar, which lay as a drug in the English market; being so much over and above the actual demand. This surplusage had reduced the average price of sugar from 65/4 per cwt. which was the estimate in the year 1800, to 33/6 per cwt. which was the mean price, for the first six months of 1807.* It seems also, that the actual cost of cultivation in the West-Indies, together with freight and insurance, amounted to 36/10 the same year; hence it follows that an absolute loss accrued to the planter, from the cultivation of his estate. All this difficulty was charged to the effects of American commerce, and of course the whole West-Indian interest was decidedly opposed to our government. The policy which they urged on Great Britain to adopt with respect to us, was to enforce the rule of war of 1756; and our Embargo has seconded their views more effectually than any other conceivable measure of their own ministry could possibly have done. By depriving the continent of the advantages of our supply of sugar (we confine ourselves to this single article for the sake of perspicuity) the Embargo created such a demand for the article, that the English found a vent for a great part of their surplusage; and of course it has considerably raised the price in Great Britain.

The quantity of sugar exported to the mother country, by all the English colonies, amounted to 2,810,915 cwt. in 1805, and in 1806 to 280,000 hogsheads, of 13 cwt. each, making a total of 3,640,000 cwt. An enhancement of 1 dollar per cwt. on this quantity, would produce 3,640,000 dollars. The quantity of *flour* exported to the English West-Indies from the United States, amounts, on an average, annually, to 431,504 barrels. During the Embargo they can receive no other

* Edinburgh Review, No. 21, p. 153.

supplies from us, than they obtain in a clandestine manner; therefore they must depend upon England and other countries for their immediate supply. The presumption is, however, from the *high price which the article now bears*, and from the attention of many of the colonies to the raising of food within themselves, that the West-Indies do now receive from abroad but little more than one third of their usual supply. That portion of this third, which is not obtained from England, cannot reasonably be supposed to amount to more than 71,917 barrels. Now it is manifest that the colonists could afford to pay 50 dollars 60 cents per barrel for this article, provided their sugar, in Europe, was enhanced in price only 1 dollar per cwt.! We will here subjoin a calculation founded upon facts, by which it will appear evident that the price of sugar has obtained an infinitely greater increase than we have just suggested; and it is also evident that flour has by no means risen to the price abovementioned, in the West-Indies. The mean price of sugar in England, the first six months of 1807, was 36/6 per cwt. Soon after the Embargo went into operation, it began to rise; in June, 1807, it was 40/8, and in September from 50/ to 51/ per cwt. Let us take the middle price for an estimate, and we discover a rise of 16/6 per cwt. on the article: which makes a difference between the two prices, on the whole amount of sugar imported into Great Britain of nearly 11,110,810 dollars. The article of Rum has also received an uncommon augmentation of value, from the operation of the Embargo: the spirit of ship building has revived in England, most astonishingly within the last year; and indeed the whole foreign trade of that country has greatly increased. These wonderful advantages, when combined with the effects of the measure, in restoring a large body of deserted seamen to the English navy, may fairly be placed as more than a counter balance to the evils of a scanty supply of staves in the West-Indies, and the losses the manufacturers in Great-Britain are obliged to sustain. These evils, on the other hand, we will venture to assert have been very much exaggerated by Mr. Giles; but even though they were as dreadful as the warmest advocate of the President could require, we think they present no motive to a concession of the most trifling doctrine of the British maritime laws. When we consider, that for the manufactures which we do now receive from England, we are obliged to pay most enormous prices; that the profits, on the raw materials which compose them, are mostly derived by the English colonists; whilst those on the manufactured articles are paid by us, and that the cotton, which we formerly supplied, is now rotting in our store houses: it is clear that the evils resulting to Great Britain, through the medium of her manufacturers, is overrated. The operation of the measure, relative to them, is in a double aspect unfavourable to us, and in only one view, inimical to that nation! The force of Mr. Giles's argument about the duties of 4 per cent. on the manufactures which we receive, is greatly

weakened from such considerations, since it takes for granted, that all her exports to this country, are necessarily at an end. It is vain to say, we will exclude the admission of English manufactures into our country; the impossibility which the Emperor Napoleon, with all his power, has experienced in a similar attempt in his dominions, speaks a lesson to us more forcible than the most powerful language, on the impracticability of such a policy. But we ask pardon; the hint of the *impracticability of a measure is an argument with our government in favour of its adoption.*

It is only by estimates calculated from the interests of the whole nation, that we can draw a conclusion as to the course which Great-Britain will pursue, or that any just determination can be discovered. The Embargo, therefore, is favourable to that nation in another view; it facilitates her blockade of the French colonies; and affords her a better opportunity of assailing them, than at that happy period, when our ships with various supplies, whitened every sea. The English colonies of Upper and Lower Canada, are notoriously benefitted by the continuance of this measure; and as to the supply of the West-India islands with staves and lumber, which Mr. Giles relies upon as impossible from any other country than the United States, we would only refer him to the shipments already made from Quebeck.

We consider the reasons we have produced, as quite apparent and conclusive; and as affording a sufficient solution of the refusal of Great-Britain to alter her Orders in Council, in our favour: but whether the Embargo had been effectual or not, we think it manifest that the British ministry would not be disposed to rescind those orders in any extremity, considering *the hostile temper in which the Embargo originated*, and *the commercial pretensions which our government most pertinaciously maintained.* It is, however, probable, from Mr. Canning's observations on the measure, that he was rather pleased with its effects, than irritated at its adoption. We are contented to draw this inference, from a part of his opinion, cited by Mr. Giles. "If," says this minister, "the Embargo be a municipal regulation, which effects none but the United States themselves, and with which no foreign nation has any concern; viewed in this light, *his majesty does not conceive that he has any right or pretension to make any complaint, and he has made none!*" It is clear from this expression, that the English government care nothing about the Embargo; or, if they do, are pleased with its operation; and that as they hitherto have not, so neither will they ever perceive a pretension to complain of it.

Admitting however, for a moment, that its *coercion* abroad is intolerable; admitting the West-India islands to be greatly distressed, without deriving any counter-balancing advantages, and that the American supplies are almost indispensible to the European nations, yet we will venture to maintain that Great-Britain could not rescind her Orders in

consequence of that distress, without relinquishing her national dignity and honour in the first instance, and her dearest national interests in the second.

Her *avowed* intention, (we will not maintain that it was *real*,) but her avowed intention was to retaliate on France, for her Berlin decree of November 21, by her Orders in Council; and her Proclamation in relation to her seamen, of October 16, 1807, promulgated the principle, that she would seize her deserters in whatever merchant vessel she should find them. If therefore, her Orders in Council were taken off to-morrow, it would be a virtual admission before the world, that she could not maintain that measure against France. But the repeal of her Orders would not be sufficient for Mr. Madison, without a concession of that part of the *Proclamation* respecting English deserters in American merchant ships; because he has more than once required our ministers in London, to break off all negotiations with Great-Britain, unless our claims in respect to seamen under such circumstances were acceded to. This point must also be yielded, or our government can have no commerce with England; and if yielded, Great-Britain disavows a principle on which her very existence as a nation most clearly and indisputably depend.

Thus it is unquestionable that Great-Britain could not rescind her Orders or Proclamation, without sacrificing the principles which she is pledged before the world to maintain, and without relinquishing to us, her enemy, her most evident and important interests.

On the whole then, we conceive it to be apparent, that the effects of the Embargo are unimportant as respects Great-Britain; or if otherwise, the balance of interest is rather in her favour, especially if our own distress be taken into account; it is clear that she never has, and we think, never will complain of it; and besides, if it were ever so distressing in its operations on that nation, she never could, for many reasons, grant a concession to America.

(To be continued.)

TEMPER OF THE TIMES.

To —— ——,

THE many peculiarities of errour and turpitude by which the present administration of government, has been most shamefully disgraced, have stamped your character with such distinguishing marks of depravity, that to the future historian, it will only be necessary to mention a measure to be Jeffersonian, and the world will be ready to believe it inexpedient, unconstitutional, and corrupt. They will easily confess, that the man who would betray a friend, would sacrifice his country;

and that the body, corrupted, as yours has been, by appetites the most unnatural, would of course be accompanied by a heart of the most deadly venom, and principles of the most destructive tendency. This letter is addressed to you, not in the delusive hope of your amendment, but that your successor may take warning from your example. That *he* may be induced to consider the universal detestation which *you* have excited, as a sort of memento to deter him from similar excesses ; and to teach him, when the particular interests of any part of the community, and the constitutional rights of the whole are invaded, that not only the *very existence of the nation* is threatened, but that there is even some danger to be apprehended from the efforts of its accumulated resentment.

The philosophick dignity, and humble acquiescence of your inaugural address, afforded no indication, but to those who penetrated your hypocrisy, of those violent measures which have since marked the course of your administration ; and those personal partialities and malignant resentments which have added new graces to your private character. Without daring, at first, to intimate the slightest displeasure at a difference of political opinion, we noticed your fruitless attempts to reconcile your opposers by smooth expressions, and excessive sensibility ; and indeed it was not until you thought yourself perfectly secure in the favourable prejudices which you had excited among the people, that you had courage enough to unfold the perfidy of your real disposition, No sir, your ambition, like your passions, you satisfy by treachery ; and as, to compass the one, your care not for the fate of the victim ; so to gratify the other, you are regardless of the prosperity of the empire.

It would lead me into an exhaustless field of censure, were I to chase you through all the windings of your political race, and beat every bush which conceals some of your perfidious transactions. Your conduct has been so subtle, that your most corrupt proceedings have often been attributed to anxiety for the publick welfare : you have so mantled your vices, that the world have mistaken plausibility for reason, and affected zeal for true sincerity of disposition. But reflecting men have ever known you, and they would long ago have been reduced to the last state of desperation, had they not taken refuge from the dangers of your wickedness, in the cowardice of your heart. By some unaccountable fatality, however, they are now to be disappointed. Either they have mistaken your courage, or there is some hidden corner of inconsistency in your mind, which has not yet been penetrated. You have perhaps thought of your favourite plan of the extirpation of commerce, until you have believed the people would submit to its oppression ; or what is still more probable, you have wished to complete the turpitude of your character, by leaving your successor to sustain the resentment of the people, when you shall have eluded the vehemence of their fu-

ry. This I own is the probable calculation of such a mind as yours; but I trust the people will have too much good sense, even in the violence of the passions, not to level the bolt of their revenge against the head of their oppressor. You sir, have reserved for the end of your course this last black act, to shed if possible, a more malignant shade upon the rank and poisonous weeds of your former life.

This act only was required to complete the inconsistencies of your political conduct. We have seen you pay the libeller of Washington, and then weep over the tomb of the hero; we have seen you befriend Mr. Munroe, in order to desert him; we have seen you the most abject slave to the dictates of tyranny, and a high-handed brawler for the rights of the people; we have seen the laws treacherously relaxed in favour of Wilkinson, and strained in prosecuting Burr; and at length we have seen you, in order to give a death blow to the interests of our commerce, plunge your dagger through the vesture of the constitution. This last act is indeed practicing fully upon the principles of your writings; your Notes on Virginia, promulgated a doctrine, which your conduct as president has enforced. Hatred is the necessary feeling at your common transactions, but in this instance it is displaced by astonishment; for your last deed has been an act of *danger*. Had it been merely wicked or disgraceful, it would have been viewed as common to the administration, and corresponding with the tenour of the presidential character.

The fifth Embargo law, too, is essentially different from any of your other measures, as it is entirely destitute of every species of plausibility for its defence. You have declared not in language, but in deeds, that the inefficiency of a policy, is no bar to its adoption, though it involve the ruin of the nation; and that the ramparts of the constitution are no defence against the unprincipled ambition of a ruler. You have at last reduced the examination of your conduct, to a question which the most inferiour understanding can decide. This I confess surprises me, for while your perfidy was only to be detected by perspicacity of argument and investigation, you were safe from publick resentment; for the people cannot be reasoned into belief, they must feel their injuries before they will avenge them. You have ventured forth into the sea of tyranny, depending on the popular breath to waft you into harbour. The basis on which you have erected your last Embargo bill is too weak to sustain the building. Already the earthquakes of publick clamour have shaken it to its foundation; would to God the desolation which will follow, might whelm the contrivers in exemplary destruction. You have hitherto maintained your popularity; you have been supported by the people in the calmness of domestick security, and serenity of general happiness; but are you prepared for your fate, when they shall rise in the tumult of their indignation, supported by the majesty of their strength, and defended by the barriers of the constitution.

Do you hope that the people will submit to the invasion of their rights, because yon command a servile majority in Congress ; or do you vainly imagine that your newly raised army will join with you to subvert the liberties of the country, by enforcing unconstitutional measures? They, we trust are true Americans; and though they know their duty as soldiers, they will remember their rights as citizens. If their swords are to be pointed at the enemies of their country ; let them proceed to the source of the evil, and wreak their vengeance at Washington.

You have treated the northern states with indignity and insult ; with insult which has made them feel their spirit and indignity, which will make you feel their power. Your publick correspondence has branded them with the epithet of *worthless ;* and your private conduct and personal manners, have contributed to insult them by reproaches or neglect. But the citizens of the commercial states understand the rights which the constitution has secured to them ; that instrument they consider the bible of their faith in the administration ; where your doctrines are repugnant to the letter and spirit of that political creed, they will not deem it heresy to disobey them. And if their disobedience calls forth the restrictive energies of the government, it is clear the interests, the rights, the liberties and independence of the people, will first have been abridged and then overthrown.

But sir, as you have already gone too far, beware how you proceed; the inhabitants of these states have been sufficiently oppressed, insulted and abused ; they have hitherto submitted to your tyrannies without absolute resistance : but, if you advance beyond your *parchment hostility*, if you proceed to *violent means* in the execution of your will, the consequences may lead to a death-bed repentance. But as this is at all times seriously to be avoided, I now warn you not to push your persecution of the people to the last extremity. " You may live long enough to make the experiment ;" but death is the fate of mortals.

MARCUS BRUTUS.

THE CONTRAST

" *Between the Death of a Deist and the Death of a Christian.*"

IF the temper with which some good christians enter into controversies on speculative doctrines, bore any proportion in point of modeeration, to that which is generally discovered among sceptical writers, we should stand a much better chance of discovering through the mist of errour and dispute, the great object of our enquiry. But unhappily there is a kind of intolerant zeal, and enthusiastick rage, operating in the minds of some orthodox people of really good intentions, and well

disposed views, which counteract the beneficial tendencies of their virtues, their principles, and their actions. They have such an abhorrence of heresy, that they think they can discover it on the most common occasions ; and a man is almost denounced by them, as an absolute infidel, who will not fully believe the doctrine of the natural corruption of human nature, and the depravity of all actions and habits previous to conversion : who will not readily admit the necessity of special regeneration, the belief of election, and of course, everlasting punishment, by means of hell-fire. In a periodical work, published in Boston, entitled " The Panoplist," the paroxysms of zeal, which we have just referred to, are frequently very violent, and seem almost to choak the authors with their wrathful effects. Sometimes they exhibit themselves in philipicks against people " *who call themselves christians* ;" at other times in a profuse, and we had almost said, impious use of the lauguage of the sacred scriptures, upon trivial topicks, and an indiscriminate mixture of the inspired phraseology, with the tiresome, stale and trite expressions of the editors. A most ridiculous cant in style and sentiment, equally removed from genuine piety and good taste, affords another indication of the existence of these zealous effusions.

We are not now disposed to enter at large into the tedious and unprofitable discussion, which an examination of the general merits of this work, would necessarily produce ; nor should we have been induced to notice it all, if its reputation had rested solely on its intrinsick worth : but we are induced to make a few remarks on a particular article which has attracted our attention, as well because we think its tendendency is far from being beneficial to the cause of religion, which it undertakes to espouse, as because the work which contains it, astonishing as it may seem, has a very extensive circulation. We cannot but regret that these violent overboilings of the spirit which we so peculiarly distinguish it, are likely to quench the very fire of devotion, by which they were at first set in motion.

The article to which we allude, is contained in " The Panoplist" of last November, entitled " a contrast between the death of a deist, and the death of a christian ; being a succinct account of that celebrated infidel *David Hume*, Esq. and of that *excellent minister of the Gospel, Samuel Finley*, D. D. in their last moments." This contrast, however, was written, it seems by the Rev. Dr. Mason, of New-York, and published in the Christian's Magazine, from which the editors of the Panoplist have extracted it, " first, to *benefit their readers*," and " secondly, to make them acquainted with a periodical work," which they affirm " is edited with peculiar ability, and does honour to our country." We shall not be justly chargeable with unrelenting severity in making some animadversions on this article, as a part of the Panoplist, after the full and complete panegyrick the editors have lavished upon it, which we

think, quite sufficient to make them responsible for all the absurdities which it may be found to contain.

We would by no means be understood to step forward as vindicators of the deistical character of Hume ; we trust we hold his works to be as dangerous, as the most enthusiastick bigot can imagine them to be ; but we do say, that the manner of the death of that great writer, makes nothing for or against the doctrines of christianity, and that the attempt of Doctor Mason, to torture language into ambiguities of meaning to suit his purposes, is inconsistent with the dignity of the christian character, and not in any respect calculated to extend the diffusion of truth. Much less is the ridiculous account which is given of the death of Doctor Finley advantageous to the cause of religion. There is no rational man but must consider his language and conduct, in the light of incoherent jargon, and visionary delusion.

The death of Mr. Hume is related by Dr. Adam Smith, in a letter to William Strathan, Esq. in which he very plainly, and feelingly informs him of the circumstances which led to, and followed his dissolution ; of the conduct of Mr. Hume, under his disease, the cheerfulness of his deportment, his agreeable conversation with his friends ; and concludes by giving an estimate of the value of his moral and intellectual character. There is nothing throughout this account, which has a tendency to prove the christian religion either better or worse ; it is a mere isolated fact, and has no bearing whatever on the truth or falsehood of the religious systems in the world.

The account of Dr. Finley's decease, on the contrary, seems evidently prepared for the object, it is by no means likely to promote, a more general enthusiasm in religious opinions. The style of his conversation generally absurd, is often impious, and frequently ridiculous ; and we are astonished that Dr. Mason, and the editors of the Panoplist, could not dispose of their talents in any more profitable way, than in making comparisons, which, if they have any effect whatever, are more calculated to defeat, than promote the interests which they so warmly espouse. We have said the language of Dr. Finley was often incoherent jargon, absurd, and frequently impious and ridiculous ; we think the following expressions will warrant our assertions.

Being asked by the Rev. Mr. Treat, who had visited him for the purpose of prayer, " what he should pray for," he answered, " beseech God that he would make me feel just as I did at that time when I *first closed with Christ*, at which time I could scarce contain myself out of heaven !"* This is absurd enough, if not impious.

One said, " you will soon be joined to a blessed society ; you will ever converse with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, with the *spirits of just men made perfect ;* with old friends, and many old fashioned people."

* Panoplist, p. 245.

"Yes sir," he replied, with a smile, "but they are most polite people now."* Now if this is not ridiculous, and joking with sacred things, language cannot convey meaning. He would sometimes cry out, "the Lord Jesus take care of his cause in this world." Why? why clearly, because Mr. Finley was about to leave it; what is this but arrogance and presumption? Waking this morning, "Oh! what a disappointment have I met with; I expected this morning to have been in heaven!" In one place he says with a strong voice; "Oh I shall triumph over every foe! The Lord hath given me victory! I exult! I triumph! Now I know that it is impossible that faith should not triumph over earth and hell!" And yet directly underneath, he felt qualms of conscience, and desired Mr. Spencer to "*pray that God would preserve him from evil*, and keep him from dishonouring his great name at this critical hour." What is this but incoherence? And to crown the whole, he is celebrated for his politeness and gentlemanly behaviour, as a special trait of christian faith and resignation. "His truly *polite* behaviour continued to the last, and manifested itself whenever he called for a drop of drink to wet his lips. Every one around him was treated with the same sweetness."

This is the last peculiarity, which in our opinion, could fairly be produced to determine the superiority of a christian to an infidel at the hour of dissolution. From what has already been extracted, we think our readers may be able to form some opinion of the value of Mr. Finley's death, to the cause of rational religion. We shall notice in our next number, some of the inferences which the Rev. Dr. Mason, unwarrantably draws from the circumstances attending the deaths both of Mr. Hume and Dr. Finley, and shall use our endeavours to dissipate the thick cloud of superstition by which they are enveloped.

POETRY.

We have lately met with the following 'Reckoning with Time,' with 'Time's Answer,' from the pen of George Colman, and as both the wit and manner, are pleasing; as the author's merits "challenge much respect" and as the tendency of the productions, is rather to ridicule the modern absurdities of the drama, we think no other apology is necessary for our offering them to our readers. If any captious person, however, should demand a further excuse, we have only to say, that the compositions are not easily procured, and that we could not readily discover any thing more appropriate for our poetical department.

* Ibid. p. 246.

A RECKONING WITH TIME.

BY GEORGE COLMAN, THE YOUNGER.

COME on, old Time!—nay, that is stuff;
Gaffer! thou com'st on fast enough;
  Wing'd foe to feather'd Cupid!
But, tell me, Sand-man! ere thy grains
Have multiplied upon my brains
  So thick, to make me stupid;

Tell me, death's journey man! but no,
Hear thou *my* speech; I will not grow
  Irrev'rent while I try it:
For though I mock thy flight, tis said,
Thy fore-lock fills me with such dread
  I *never take thee by it*.

List, then, old *Is*, *Was*, and *To be!*
I'll state accounts twixt thee and me:
  Thou gav'st me, first, the measles:
With teething would have ta'en me off,
Then mad'st me with the hooping-cough
  Thinner than fifty weasles.

Thou gav'st small-pox (the dragon, now
That Jenner combats on a cow;)
  And then, some seeds of knowledge;
Grains of the Grammar, which the flails
Of pedants thrash upon our tails,
  To fit us for a college.

And when at Christ-Church, 'twas thy sport
To rack my brains, with sloe-juice port,
  And lectures out of number;
There fresh-man Folly quaffs and sings,
While graduate, Dulness clogs thy wings
  With mathematick lumber.

Thy pinions next, (which, while they wave,
Fan all our birth-days to the grave,)
  I think, ere it was prudent,
Balloon'd me from the schools to town,
Where I was *parachuted* down
  A dapper Temple Student.

Then much in dramas did I look;
Much slighted thee, and great Lord Coke;
  Congreve beat Blackstone hollow:
Shakespeare made all the statutes stale,
And in *my* crown, no place had Hale,
  To supercede Apollo.

Ah, Time! these raging heats I find,
Were the mere dog-star of my mind,
How cool is *retrospection!*
Youth's gaudy summer solstice o'er,
Experience yields a mellow store,
An autumn of reflection.

Why did I let the god of song
Lure me from law, to join this throng,
Gull'd by some slight applauses?
What's verse to A, when *versus* B?
Or what John Bull, a comedy,
To pleading John Bull's causes?

But though my child-hood felt disease,
Though my lank purse, unswoll'n by fees
Some ragged muse has netted,
Still honest Chronus! 'tis most true
To thee, (*and faith, to others too,*)
I'm very much indebted!!

For thou hast made me gaily tough,
Enur'd me to each day that's rough,
In hopes of calm to-morrow;
And when, old mower of us all,
Beneath thy sweeping scythe I fall,
Some *few dear friends* will sorrow.

Then though my idle prose, or rhyme,
Should half an hour out live my time,
Pray bid the stone engravers,
Where'er my bones find church-yard room,
Simply to chissel on my tomb,
"*Thank Time for all his favours.*"

TIME'S REPLY.

DEAR George, thy retrospective glance
Has check'd me in my mad advance.
This old truth to arrive at;
Of all who hunt for fame or gain,
Or plough the meadow or the main,
Not one "contentus vivat."

Leave common law to common men;
Believe me, George, thy nervous pen,
A brighter cause espouses;
Yok'd to the rumbling dray of law,
Let others empty pleadings draw,
'Tis thine to draw full-houses.

How many votaries of the muse,
My sand, as blotting-pa er use:
With politicks some fill me;
While *at a sing-song house*, I'm told,
Where foreign *notes* are chang'd for *gold*,
Some *beat* and others *kill* me.

Thou know'st *my little winning ways*,
I live by *eating modern plays*;
A milk and water diet:
But *thou* wouldst starve me, selfish man,
Go gnaw thy pen; I never can,
'Twould break my teeth to try it.

When wilt thou write like other men?
Observe your brethren of the pen,
How scornfully I treat 'em;
Like oysters, (sorrowful to tell)
Their plays no sooner quit the shell,
Than, *presto*, *pass*, I eat 'em.

While others in oblivion waste
Time, the Ithuriel spear of taste,
Shall still thy dramas treasure;
They're one and all so truly good,
That though they never give me food,
They always give me pleasure.

Thus sailing down life's eddying pool
My wings shall fan thy passions cool;
Psha! cease this idle pother:
My eyes grow dim, give me your hand,
One half my glass is choak'd with sand,
Let's fill with wine the other!

Long may'st thou flourish, wisely gay,
Till my own fore-lock turns to grey;
And when old Pluto's raven
Shall croak thee to thy narrow room,
The passenger, upon thy tomb
Shall read these lines engraven:

"Within this monumental bed,
Appolo's favourite rests his head;
Ye mourners cease your grieving:
A son, the father's loss supplies;
Be comforted, though COLMAN dies,
His 'HEIR AT LAW' *is living!*"